

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A hair holding device comprising:
a first body member and a second body member, said first and second body members comprising hair gripping portions;
hinge means for pivotally connecting said first and second body members; and
elastomeric means ~~in contact with said first and second body members~~ for biasing said first and second body members into a closed position and for conforming to gathered strands of a user's hair when said hair gripping portions come into contact with gathered strands of a user's hair, said elastomeric means being in contact with said first and second body members.
2. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric means comprise at least one finite length elastomeric strand having first and second ends.
3. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 2 further comprising means at said first and second ends for connecting said at least one elastomeric strand to said first and second body members.
4. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 2 further comprising means for permanently connecting said at least one elastomeric strand to said first and second body members.

5. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 2 further comprising means for removably connecting said at least one elastomeric strand to said first and second body members.

6. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric means comprise at least one continuous elastomeric band.

7. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 6 further comprising means for permanently connecting said at least one elastomeric band to said first and second body members.

8. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 6 further comprising means for removably connecting said at least one elastomeric band to said first and second body members.

9. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 6 wherein said at least one elastomeric band contacts said first and second body members in a looped configuration.

10. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 6 wherein said at least one elastomeric band contacts said first and second body members in a laced configuration.

11. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric means is permanently connected to said first and second members.

12. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric means is removably connected to said first and second members.

13. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 1 further comprising additional means for biasing said first and second body members into a closed position.

14. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 13 wherein said additional means for biasing comprise a torsion spring having a first end in contact with said first body member and a second end in contact with said second body member.

15. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 14 wherein said first and second body members further comprise handle portions that are squeezable by a user to separate said hair gripping portions of said first and second body members, and wherein said first end of said torsion spring is in contact with said handle portion of said first body member and said second end of said torsion spring is in contact with said handle portion of said second body member.

16. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 1 wherein said first and second body members further comprise handle portions that are squeezable by a user to separate said hair gripping portions of said first and second body members.

17. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second body members further comprise fulcrum means for contacting said elastomeric means and for easing opening and closing of said device as said first and second body members are moved between closed and open positions.

18. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 17 wherein fulcrum means comprise at least one protrusion extending from a hinge axis of said hinge means toward said elastomeric means.

19. (Original) The hair holding device of claim 18 wherein said at least one protrusion is at least one connecting lug of said hinge means.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of improving the hair holding capability of a hair holding device, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a hair holding device comprising first and second pivotally connected body members, said first and second body members comprising hair gripping portions; and

providing said first and second body members with elastomeric means for biasing said first and second body members into a closed position and for conforming to gathered strands of a user's hair when said hair gripping portions come into contact with gathered strands of a user's hair, said elastomeric means being in contact with said first and second body members.